

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating the performance of an anion exchange resin, comprising the steps of:

selectively measuring the an inorganic carbonic acid concentration in the an outlet water of an ion exchange resin vessel filled with at least an anion exchange resin, thereby avoiding influences from other acid ions; and

evaluating the a performance of the anion exchange resin filled in said ion exchange resin vessel based on the measured ~~obtained measurement value of the~~ inorganic carbonic acid concentration in the outlet water.

2. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

measuring the an inorganic carbonic acid concentration in the an inlet water of said ion exchange resin vessel; and

evaluating the performance of said anion exchange resin based on the inorganic carbonic acid concentrations of said outlet water and of said inlet water.

3. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic carbonic acid concentration is continuously measured.

4. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic carbonic acid concentration is intermittently measured.

5. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 2, further

comprising the steps of:

calculating an MTC (Mass Transfer Coefficient) of said anion exchange resin with respect to the inorganic carbonic acid from the measured ~~values for the~~ inorganic carbonic acid concentrations of the inlet water and of the outlet water of said ion exchange resin vessel; and

evaluating the performance of said anion exchange resin based on the obtained MTC.

6. (Currently Amended) The A method according to claim 5, further

comprising the steps of:

evaluating ~~the~~ a degree of degradation of said anion exchange resin from said MTC; and

judging at least one of ~~the~~ a replacement timing, a lifetime, and a throughput capacity for said anion exchange resin.

7.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A performance evaluation apparatus for anion exchange resins, comprising:

an outlet monitoring device for selectively measuring ~~the~~ an inorganic carbonic acid concentration of ~~the~~ an outlet water of an ion exchange resin vessel filled with an anion exchange resin, thereby avoiding influences from other acid ions; and

an evaluation device for evaluating ~~the~~ a performance of the anion exchange resin filling said ion exchange resin vessel based on the measured ~~measurement value of the~~ inorganic carbonic acid concentration of the outlet water ~~obtained from~~ measured by said monitoring device.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

an inlet monitoring device for measuring an inorganic carbonic acid concentration of ~~the~~ an inlet water of said ion exchange resin vessel; wherein said evaluation device evaluates ~~the~~ a performance of said anion exchange resin based on the inorganic carbonic acid concentrations of said outlet water and of said inlet water.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said outlet monitoring ~~apparatus~~ device continuously measures the inorganic carbonic acid concentration of said outlet water.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said outlet monitoring ~~apparatus~~ device intermittently measures the inorganic carbonic acid concentration of said outlet water.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said evaluation apparatus calculates MTC (Mass Transfer Coefficient) of said anion exchange resin with respect to the inorganic carbonic acid from the measured

~~measurement values of the~~ inorganic carbonic acid concentrations of the inlet water and of the outlet water of said ion exchange resin vessel, and evaluates the performance of the anion exchange resin based on the obtained MTC.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said evaluation apparatus evaluates ~~the~~ a degree of degradation of the anion exchange resin from said MTC and judges at least one of a replacement timing, a lifetime, and a throughput capacity for said anion exchange resin.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said ion exchange resin vessel is a condensate water demineralization vessel of a condensate water demineralization system.

21.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein selectively measuring comprises using an electric conductivity sensor with a gas permeating membrane.